

Remarks

Claim 17-23 are pending in this application. Claims 17-23 have been rejected. More particularly, Claims 17-23 have been rejected under 35U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Walker et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,327,573. Applicant makes the following remarks in response thereto.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to its counsel during the telephonic interviews on March 1, 2006 and March 16, 2005. During these interviews, Michael A. Carrillo, attorney for Applicant, and Examiner Daniel Lastra discussed U.S. Patent No. 6,327,573 to Walker et al. (the "Walker" reference), Applicant's invention and proposed amendments to the claims that might clarify the differences between the two. Although no agreement was reached, the Examiner suggested that Applicant submit the proposed amendments in an Office Action Response for further review. Based on the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has made the Amendments shown above. It should be noted, however, that the aforementioned Amendments have only been made to more accurately claim the subject invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that the modifications were not material changes to the claims and no additional search should be necessary.

It is believed that the application has complied with all outstanding requirements, and it is requested that this application be given a Notice of Allowability at the earliest possible date.

Please contact the undersigned attorney if there are any outstanding issues.

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